

Guiana

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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TO : US Department of State, Washington

INFO : American Embassy, Brasilia, American Embassy, Paramaribo

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : PBOR PFOR FR FB BR NS

FROM : American Embassy, Paris

DATE: September 12, 1976

SUBJECT: Brazil-French Guiana Boundary

REF : A. Department A-3381, July 7, 1976 (not sent to Brasilia or Paramaribo)

B. Paris A-280, June 23, 1975

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We regret the delay in responding to reference A due to the absence of the appropriate officer at the Quai.

Raymond Cesaire, Director of Latin American Affairs of the Foreign Ministry, tells us that a search of Ministry records revealed no copies of an agreement on the Brazil-French Guiana boundary. However, he investigated the matter with appropriate authorities of the Institut Geographique National, and they assured him that formal agreement between French and Brazilian governments has been reached on all but one boundary point. The agreement was reached through exchange and initialing or signing of letters in 1962 or 1963. The boundary was that as noted in reference B. Cesaire did not see the letters himself and rebuffed our efforts to examine them but said that Institut officials were fully satisfied with the legality of the agreements.

The point remaining to settle is that point where Brazil, French Guiana, and Surinam meet. Cesaire indicated that the newly assigned French Ambassador to Surinam had, as one of his first tasks, the preparation of a boundary agreement between Surinam and French Guiana. The Surinam Government has indicated it is prepared to agree to the Litanie River frontier as recommended by the Dutch, and Cesaire foresaw few problems in reaching a formal agreement. At that time,

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Clearances:

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Cesaire suggested the GOF would publish the agreement with Brazil.

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Interestingly, Cesaire mentioned during the discussion that some Brazilian frontier authorities, particularly military, seemed unaware of the agreement. The implication was clear that some border problems have occurred. He said the agreement was reached prior to the 1964 Brazilian military coup and he opined some Brazilian officers were reluctant to accept an agreement reached by the previous regime.

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